

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, but has not applied any prior art to the claims. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejections. The following is a summary of the amendments made.

In Claim 1, the phrase "such as a press" has been deleted. The claimed invention can be used with a machine tool that is a press, but is not necessarily limited to such use, and can be used with other machine tools.

In Claims 1 and 2, the term "limited forward axial movement" has been amended to "limited axial forward movement". This wording is consistent with the specification, at page 12, line 6.

The Examiner has held that the recitation of the springs is confusing. Applicant has amended the specification and claims to eliminate any confusion, as explained below.

In the present invention, there are three return springs:

a) a return spring 18, which pushes the pattern axially in the forward direction;

b) a return spring 20, which pushes the pattern axially back in the retraction direction; and

c) a return spring 84, which returns the tap carrier to a centered radial position in the casing.

The three springs described above are now designated as follows:

1) Spring 18 is now called a "retraction return spring". This wording is consistent with the specification at page 11, lines 12-17.

2) Spring 20 is now called an "advance return spring". This wording is consistent with the specification at page 12, line 15.

3) Spring 84 is a "return radial spring means".

The claims have been amended to make clear, in each case, which spring is meant. Also, the specification has been amended to make it consistent with the terminology now being used. Applicant believes that this Amendment overcomes the rejection relating to the identification of the springs.

With regard to Claim 5, the term "limited axial retrograde movement" is described in the specification, for example at page 5, line 30, through page 6, line 15.

Claim 6 has been amended to change the term "retract" to "push".

Claim 10 has been amended into an independent claim. Amended Claim 10 contains all of the limitations of original Claims 1 and 10.

Applicant believes that the above amendments overcome all of the rejections made by the Examiner. Applicant therefore believes that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and requests reconsideration by the Examiner.